

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Serial No.: 10/777,293

Filing Date: 2/12/2004

Attorney Docket No. 700.002US01

Title: LARYNGOSCOPE BLADE

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A laryngoscope blade comprising:
a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and proximal end;
a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip having a width that is flared wider in a first direction than a width of the main blade portion, the blade tip further being at a select angle with relation to the posterior surface of the main blade portion; ~~and~~
a first tongue displacement plate coupled to the main blade portion along a length of the blade;
a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate,
wherein the second tongue displacement plate and the first tongue displacement plate are adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue during use of the laryngoscope, the second tongue displacement plate having at least one rounded corner; and
a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the blade.
2. (Original) The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the select angle is an obtuse angle.
3. (Currently amended) The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein select ~~angle~~ angle is about 165 degrees.
4. (Original) The laryngoscope of claim 1 further comprising:
the blade base having a bottom portion, the bottom portion having a channel; and
the proximal end of the main blade portion being received in the channel of bottom portion of the blade base, wherein the main blade portion proximate the proximal end does not

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extend below the bottom portion of the blade base to allow clearance for a patient's teeth during use.

5. (Currently amended) The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate has a displacement length that is significantly shorter than a length of the main blade portion. ~~further comprising:~~
~~—— a first tongue displacement plate coupled to the main blade portion along a length of the blade.~~

6. (Currently amended) The laryngoscope of claim [5] 1, wherein the first tongue displacement plate extends generally at perpendicular angle from the main blade portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The laryngoscope of claim [5] 1, further comprising:
the first tongue displacement plate having a first cutout portion proximate the proximal end of the blade to allow clearance of a patient's top teeth during use.

8. (Original) The laryngoscope of claim 7, further comprising:
the first tongue displacement plate having a second cut out portion approximate the distal end of the blade.

9. (Currently amended) The laryngoscope of claim [6] 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate is generally extends from the first tongue displacement plate in the shape of a semi-circle. ~~further comprising:~~

~~a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate;~~
~~wherein the second tongue displacement plate and the first tongue displacement plate are adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue during use of the laryngoscope.~~

10. (Currently amended) The laryngoscope of the claim [9] 1, further comprising:

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the second tongue displacement plate extending generally at a perpendicular angle from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction away from the main blade portion.

11. (Currently amended) The laryngoscope of claim [9] 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate generally extends from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is opposite the first direction of the flared blade tip.

12. (Original) The laryngoscope of claim [9] 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate and the first tongue displacement plate are generally flat in shape.

13. (Currently amended) A laryngoscope blade, the blade comprising:
a main blade portion having a length defined by a distal end and a proximal end, the main blade being generally straight along its length;

a first tongue displacement plate having a first end extending from a first side of the main blade portion, the first tongue displacement plate further extending along a select length of the main blade portion that is proximate the distal end of the main blade portion;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from a second end of the first tongue displacement plate in a direction away from the main displacement blade, the first tongue displacement plate and the second tongue displacement plate being adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade base adapted to selectively couple a laryngoscope handle to the laryngoscope blade.

14. (Currently amended) The blade of claim 13, further comprising:
the blade base having a bottom portion, the bottom portion having a channel; and
the ~~distal~~ proximal end of the main blade portion being received in the channel of bottom portion of the blade base, wherein the main blade portion proximate the ~~distal~~ proximal end does

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not extend below the bottom portion of the blade base to allow clearance for a patient's teeth during use.

15. (Original) The blade of claim 13, wherein the length of the first tongue displacement plate is less than half the length of the main blade portion.

16. (Original) The blade of claim 13, wherein the first tongue displacement plate extends from the first side of the main blade portion at generally a perpendicular angle.

17. (Original) The blade of claim 13, wherein the second tongue displacement plate extends from the first tongue displacement plate at generally a perpendicular angle.

18. (Original) The blade of claim 13, further comprising:
a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip flaring beyond the width of the main blade portion, wherein the greater width of the blade tip allows the width of the main blade to be made relatively thin.

19. (Original) The blade of claim 18, wherein the main blade portion.
wherein the second tongue displacement plate generally extends at a perpendicular angle from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is opposite the flared blade tip.

20. (Original) The blade of claim 18, wherein the blade tip flares wider than the main blade portion from a second side of the main blade portion.

21. (Original) The blade of claim 18, further comprising:
the main blade portion further having a posterior surface; and
the blade tip extending from the main blade portion at a select obtuse angle from the posterior surface of the main blade portion.

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22. (Currently amended) A laryngoscope blade, the blade comprising:
- a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end;
 - a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion from a first side of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending from the posterior surface of the main blade portion at a select angle;
 - a first tongue displacement plate extending from a second side of the main blade portion at generally a right angle, the first tongue displacement portion further extending along a select length of the main blade portion proximate the distal end of the main blade portion;
 - a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second displacement plate further extending from the first displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion the second tongue displacement plate having at least one curved edge; and
 - a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion.
23. (Original) The blade of claim 22, wherein the first tongue displacement plate has a length that is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the main blade portion.
24. (Currently amended) The blade of claim 22, wherein the select ~~angel~~ angle between the blade tip and the posterior surface is an obtuse angle.
25. (Currently amended) The blade of claim 22, wherein the select ~~angel~~ angle between the blade tip and the posterior surface is approximately 165 degrees.
26. (Original) The blade of claim 22, further comprising:
- the blade base has a channel; and

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a blade connection portion coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade connection portion received in the channel in the blade base.

27. (Currently amended) A laryngoscope comprising:

a laryngoscope handle; and

a laryngoscope blade, the laryngoscope blade including,

a main blade portion having an posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end up to the distal end,

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion from a first side of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending from the posterior surface of the main blade portion at a select angle,

a first tongue displacement plate extending from a second side of the main blade portion at generally a right angle, the first tongue displacement portion further extending along a select length of the main blade portion proximate the distal end of the main blade portion,

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second tongue displacement plate further extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion, and

a blade base extending from the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade base is adapted to be selectively coupled to the laryngoscope handle.

28. (Currently amended) A method of using a laryngoscope, the method comprising:

inserting a substantially straight laryngoscope blade into a patient's oral cavity;

displacing a patient's tongue with first and second displacement plates that are located proximate a distal end of the laryngoscope blade;

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positioning a proximal end of the laryngoscope blade proximate a patients upper teeth;
and

exposing the patient's aditus of larynx.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein exposing the patient's aditus of the larynx further comprises:

lifting the epiglottis with a blade tip that extends from a distal end of the laryngoscope blade, the blade tip being flared wider than the laryngoscope blade.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein exposing the patient's aditus of the larynx further comprises:

placing a blade tip that extends from a distal end of the laryngoscope blade in a patient's vallecula, the blade tip being flared wider than the laryngoscope blade; and
shifting the entire glottis structure anteriorly with the blade tip.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein displacing a patient's tongue with first and second displacement plates further comprises:

engaging the patient's tongue with the first and second tongue displacement plates; and
applying force to patient's tongue in a lateral direction with the first and second displacement plates.